

Message Text

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17

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 L-02 SS-15 NSC-05

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P R 310844Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5138

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS THE HAGUE 0505

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, NL

SUBJECT: DUTCH MEDIA REACTION ON CIVIL AIR TALKS IN
THE HAGUE

EB FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ENDERS; DEPT PASS CAB

1. AS ROUND THREE OF THE CIVIL AIR NEGOTIATIONS CONCLUDED
JANUARY 29, DUTCH MEDIA REFLECTED ALLEGED PESSIMISM
OF THE DUTCH DELEGATIONS' CHIEF NEGOTIATOR,
TRANSPORT MINISTER TIERK WESTERTERP. WESTERTERP'S DAILY
PRESS CONFERENCES HAVE PROVIDED GRIST FOR MOST OF LOCAL
COVERAGE TO DATE, AS DID JOINT CONFERENCE WITH DEPUTY ASSISTANT
SECRETARY WALDMANN ON FINAL DAY OF TALKS.

2. "VOLSKRANT" CATHOLIC LABOR, LEFTIST 1.30.1975
"AFTER FAILURE OF CONSULTATIONS US NOW WANTW TO TACKLE
KLM"

"MANY HUNDREDS ARE LOSING THEIR JOBS"

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MINISTER WESTERTERP OF TRANSPORT SAID THAT HOLLAND IS

PREPARED TO RISK LEGAL ACTION BY THE CAB. HE SAID:

"WE HAVE GOOD LAWYERS IN WASHINGTON." HE FURNISHED THE FOLLOWING STATISTICS AT PRESS CONFERENCE YESTERDA. (WALDMAN POINTED OUT THAT THESE DATA HAD NOT BEEN BROUGHT UP IN CONSULTATIONS). IF THE KLM IS EVENTUALLY FORCED TO REDUCE ITS ATLANTIC TRAFFIC BY HALF IT WILL MEAN:

A) AN OPERATING LOSS OF BETWEEN 35 AND 40 MILLION GUILDERS PER YEAR FOR THE COMPANY ITSELF (THIS IS ABOUT 10 PCT OF ITS TOTAL OPERATIONS);

B) THE LOSS OF BETWEEN 600 AND 1500 JOBS AT SCHIPHOL AND ANOTHER 200 IN FIRMS RELATED;

D) A LOSS OF INCOME OF 3 MILLION GUILDERS PER YEAR TO SCHIPHOL AIRPORT;

D) THE LOSS OF BETWEEN 10 AND 13 MILLION GUILDERS AS A RESULT OF BETWEEN 35, 000 AND 50,000 FEWER TOURISTS FROM THE US.

THIS PAPER CONCLUDES FROM MR. WALDMANN'S REMARKS ABOUT TIME PLAYING A PART IN THE NEGOTIATIONS (SEE PARA 6 BELOW)

THAT IT'S LIKELY THAT UNILATERAL ACTION AGAINST THE KLM WILL BE SPEEDY. WELL-INFORMED CIRCLES, ACCORDING TO THIS PAPER, SEE THE SITUATION AS BEING INSOLUBLE, AND CONSIDER THAT THE US NOW WANTS TO START ON UNILATERAL MEASURES AGAINST THE KLM.

3. ANP (DUTC NEWS SERVICE)

MINISTER WESTERTERP SAID AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE THAT DURING THE TALKS OF THIS WEEK HE HAD FELT LIKE A FROG WAITING BEFORE THE OPEN BEAK OF THE STORK. THE STORK TELLS THE FROG HE IS TO BE EATEN, AND ASKES IF HE WOULD PREFER TO BE FRIED OR BAKED. WHEN THE FROG ANSWERS THAT HE DOES NOT WISH TO BE EATEN AT ALL, THE STORK REPLIES "THAT IS NOT ON THE AGENDA".

4. "DE TELEGRAAF" INDEPENDENT CONSERVATIVE 1.30.1975

"WESTERTERP: 'NO REVENGE ON THE US BECAUSE OF THE KLM' " MINISTER WESTERTERP SAID YESTERDAY AFTER THE BREAKING-OFF OF THE TALKS THAT HOLLAND IS NOT CONTEMPLATING ANY COUNTER-MEASURES IN THE EVENT OF THE US TAKING UNILATERAL ACTION AGAINST THE KLM. HE SAID THAT US PROTECTIONISM MUSTN'T BE ANSWERED IN KIND.

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5. "ALGEMEEN DAGBLAD" INDEPENDENT CONSERVATIVE 1.30.1975

"'US DEMANDS UNACCEPTABLE' "

"KLM REFUSES TO GO DOWN ON ITS KNEES"

"EMPLOYMENT FOR HUNDREDS IN DANGER"

EDITORIAL COMMENT:

"THE SCORE IN THE KLM MATCH BETWEEN THE US AND HOLLAND IS STILL 0-0...

HOWEVER, THE US CAN NOW TAKE UNILATERAL STEPS AGAINST THE KLM, ALTHOUGH THIS WOULD BE A DRASTIC EXAMPLE OF THE MISUSE OF POWER. ANYWAY MINISTERS VAN DER STOEL AND KISSINGER MUST MEET AGAIN ON THIS SUBJECT AND PERHAPS THIS WILL PROVIDE A SOLUTION. ONE CAN EXPECT FROM A MAN OF KISSINGER'S STATURE MORE RESPECT FOR THE POSITION OF AN ATLANTIC ALLY THAN THE US NEGOTIATORS HERE HAVE SHOWN."

6. TELEVISION

ALL THREE EDITIONS OF THE EVENING NEWS CARRIED THE CIVIL AIR NEGOTIATIONS STORY PROMINENTLY, WITH PRIME TIME EXPANDED NEWS SLOT USING INTERVIEWS WITH WESTERTERP AND U.S. DELEGATION LEADER WALDMANN. WESTERTERP'S REMARKS REFLECTED ABOVE NEWSPAPER COVERAGE. WALDMANN WAS ASKED IF HE DIDN'T FEEL PRESSED FOR TIME, SINCE THE NEW SUMMER AIRLINE SCHEDULES WOULD BE ISSUED ON APRIL FIRST. HE RESPONDED "SINCE THE PROBLEM HAS HAD A LONG HISTORY, IT IS MY VIEW THAT IT NEED NOT BE SOLVED IN ONE YEAR ALTHOUGH TO HAVE THE GREATEST IMPACT, CLEARLY WE SHOULD SEE SOME REDUCTIONS FOR THE COMING SUMMER SEASON." THE INTERVIEWER THEN SAID "YOU MIGHT SAY, 'WE MIGHT POSTPONE IT UNTIL NEXT YEAR'?" WALDMANN: "NO, I DON'T THINK WE'LL SAY THAT. BUT I THINK WE OUGHT TO CONSIDER WHAT IMPACT REDUCTIONS THIS YEAR AND NEXT YEAR MIGHT HAVE." GOULD

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